

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 7, No. 18

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

May 13, 2005

Miramar pilots killed in Iraq crash

Compiled by MCAS Miramar Public Affairs

The Department of Defense recently announced the deaths of two deployed Marine Corps Air Station Miramar-based pilots supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major John C. Spahr, executive officer, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and Capt. Kelly C. Hinz, pilot with VMFA-323, were killed May 2, following an aircraft mishap over Southcentral Iraq. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

The squadron is currently deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

Spahr, a 42-year-old native of Cherry Hill, N.J., originally entered the military Aug. 11, 1989, and joined VMFA-323 June 5, 2002.

Spahr's awards include four Air Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (one with Combat Distinguishing Device), one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two

awards of the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon and two awards of the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Spahr is survived by his mother and daughter.

Hinz, a 30-year-old Woodbury, Minn., native, originally entered the armed forces July 14, 1996, and joined VMFA-323 Sept. 3, 2003.

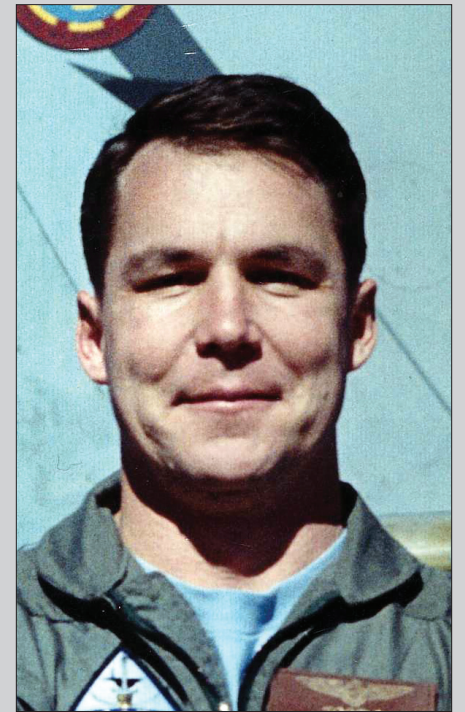
Hinz's awards include the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Hinz is survived by his wife and daughter.

"The Marines and Sailors of MAG-11 and 3rd MAW mourn the loss of their fellow warriors. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of these two patriots who have given their lives upon the altar of freedom," said Col. Earl S. Wederbrook, commanding officer, MAG-11.

Donations to the "Spahr Fund" and the "Hinz Fund," established to assist the children of the fallen Marines, can be made at any Navy Federal Credit Union location worldwide.

A memorial service for both pilots will be held 2 p.m. May 26 in the air station chapel.



Fallen heroes

Captain Kelly C. Hinz (left) and Maj. John C. Spahr, with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, were killed May 2 when their F/A-18C Hornets crashed in Southcentral Iraq. Photos courtesy of the Hinz and Spahr families

Commandant: Marine 'most important part of Corps'

Story by Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher

Headquarters Marine Corps

WASHINGTON — The single most important weapon system in the Marine Corps' arsenal is the individual Marine, and the Corps' resources are aimed at enhancing this core capability.

That is the thrust of All Marine Message 018/05, signed April 18 by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Mike Hagee. The vision and intent in the ALMAR updates the original guidance that was promulgated when he became commandant Jan. 13, 2003.

"We can talk about aircraft; we can talk about howitzers; we can talk about tanks; but the individual Marine is the most important part of the Corps," Hagee said.

To remain the nation's force-in-readiness and to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st century, the Corps needs to reorganize to maintain a rapid response capability and technological edge on the battlefield. The commandant's

vision and intent will do this through a focus on training, educating and equipping the individual Marine, in order to expand their battlefield capabilities.

The Corps' continued priority is the Global War on Terrorism, and Marines are doing a tremendous job in this conflict, Hagee said. But, the Corps also has an obligation to prepare for the future and "we believe that our future will be characterized by irregular wars," he stated in the ALMAR.

Irregular warfare, sometimes referred to as asymmetric warfare or fourth generation warfare, is "conflict that deviates from the norm," according to the Navy War College Web site.

"During Operation Iraqi Freedom when we marched to Baghdad, it was pretty much platoon against platoon, squad against squad, battalion against battalion," the commandant said. "In our case, sometimes, it was platoon against company and platoon against battalion — our platoon, their battalion. It was no match — they lost.

"The enemy learned that and they don't want to take us

on in normal formation. They don't want to take us on one-on-one. So they are attacking us asymmetrically," he said.

Examples of this type of irregular warfare are Improvised Explosive Devices, the propaganda insurgents are using in Iraq and the Oct. 12, 2000 attack on the USS Cole in the port of Yemen, the general said.

To combat irregular warfare, "we are going to better equip, better train and better educate our Marines so that they can work faster than the bad guys," the general said.

For example, to combat IEDs the Corps is developing technology to locate IEDs where they are assembled rather than wait till they have been emplaced on the battlefield.

Marines can also expect more cultural education at centers such as the Training and Education Command's "Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning" scheduled to begin operation in October at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

See CMC page 10

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



Marines
fire
Stingers
Page 6



Midway
highlights
history
Page 8



Budgeting your personal finances for entertainment

Story by Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

MCAS Miramar

What do you do for entertainment? Many of us like to relax and have fun and that usually involves spending money. Whether it is spent eating out or going to concerts or movies, having fun these days costs something. We want to enjoy life, and most of us want to save for the future.

What then is a reasonable amount to spend on entertainment?

Of course, it depends on what is important to you and where you live. Military life calls for living in a variety of locales. Living in some regions is just more expensive. The San Diego area is one of the expensive ones. How then can you create a reasonable budget? Financial experts have come up with some good rules of thumb that can be used as guidelines:

Housing and utilities	25 – 30%
Food	10 – 15%
Vehicles	10– 15%
Insurance	5%
Taxes	25%
Clothing	5%
Healthcare	5%
Childcare	5 – 10%
Charity	Up to you

Entertainment	5%
Savings and Investments	10 – 15%

First, budgets are a necessary evil. They are a way to get a grip on your spending, so you can be sure your funds are going where you want them. Creating a budget usually requires:

- 1) identifying how you spend money now.
- 2) evaluating your current spending and setting goals.
- 3) tracking your spending to make sure it stays within your guidelines.
- 4) Watch out for the ways you leak cash.
- 5) Be careful of luxuries that are dressed up as necessities.
- 6) Pay yourself first. Ten percent should go into savings.
- 7) Don't count on windfalls such as tax refunds and part-time jobs that can't last.
- 8) Finally beware of the hazardous "spending creep."

When you get a pay raise, before you spend it make sure you're staying ahead of inflation and then use it as an excuse to save more.

If you have questions or want to make an appointment for your own free, personalized budget, call (858) 577-1807.



Is this your Accord?

The above vehicle is marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. For more information, call 577-1276 or 577-4150.

Steps to refinancing your home

By Erin Holloway

LIFELines.navy.mil/LIFELines.usmc.mil

In today's economy, you can't get away from talk about refinancing. Great rates are advertised daily, and you find yourself wondering if this is something you can or even should do. But before jumping on the refinancing bandwagon, research the best options for you.

Start by checking your credit worthiness. Then find a lender or broker for your refinance. Finally, do a cost analysis to make sure the transaction meets your specific goals.

Ensure your credit is good before making any decisions about refinancing, because if you have a low credit score you may not qualify for the best rates and programs.

First, request a copy of your credit report to make sure there are no problems. Be proactive by requesting your credit report annually and reviewing it for accuracy. This will also tell you your credit score.

Lenders use your score to determine your eligibility for different loan programs and rates. If you have a score of 740 or above, you have excellent credit. A score of 680 to 739 is considered good, and if your score is less than 680, you do not qualify for the best rates. If you have poor credit, take the necessary steps to improve it.

The best way to build and maintain good to excellent credit is to pay your bills on time. Every late payment on a credit account lowers your score. If you are struggling with payments, call your creditor and ask to make arrangements.

Also, many people do not realize that multiple credit inquiries lower your score. These inquiries indicate you are opening lines of credit that increase your debt risk.

In order to refinance, you cannot have any late mortgage payments. One late payment eliminates you from the best rates, programs and lenders.

Lenders, such as banks and credit unions, look at your income, assets, credit score and debt-to-income ratio to determine your eligibility for refinancing. Today's low rates have created greater demand than supply, and this gives lenders the choice to work with only the most financially fit clients.

If you do not fit the lender's mold, you may want to look at using a broker. Brokers are middlemen who work with individuals with varied financial histories. They use multiple lenders and loan products and can be more flexible and creative to meet their client's needs.

To better understand your lender or broker, review industry terms and their meanings.

As with any financial decision, a cost analysis will help determine if the available program and rate meet your refinancing goals. Remember, program availability and cost will depend on your goals.

When refinancing a home there are seemingly unlimited loan programs available, so make an informed decision by knowing your credit score, researching your loan options and choosing the right lender or broker for your needs.

MIRAMARKS

"How are you preparing for your first or next home purchase?"



LANCE CPL. PRANIL SHANKAR

Embark chief
MALS-16

"Financially, I need another deployment, and I'll have enough money to not only buy my own home but also fill it up with nice furniture."

LANCE CPL. JOSEPH MICHELETTO

Precision repair technician
MALS-16

"I put money into mutual funds from every paycheck. I put about 5 percent of my pay into savings and intend to reach my goal down payment in a few years."



1ST LT. CHARLIE HINES

S-4 officer
MALS-16

"I have a portion of my paycheck going to money market and saving accounts."



FLIGHT JACKET

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Marines celebrate Multi-Cultural Heritage Day

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps is comprised of men and women with different ethnic and cultural backgrounds from every region of the world.

During Multi-Cultural Heritage Day May 4, hosted by Miramar's Marine Corps Community Services, participants learned about various cultures, sampled authentic ethnic dishes and enjoyed a variety of entertainment originated from an array of foreign countries.

"The (celebration) is an event that is here to allow Marines and Sailors to recognize the different cultural backgrounds that we originate from and to celebrate that diversity that exists in the Marine Corps and the Navy," said Master Sgt. Christopher J. Massari, equal opportunity adviser, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. "It is a chance for commanders to recognize that contribution from those ethnic groups."

Although the heritage day provided the opportunity for Marines and Sailors to explore their fellow servicemembers' backgrounds, it also raised money for a special cause close to the hearts of many Marines.

"We gave people a taste of all different types of nationalities today and also raised money for the Marine Corps Ball," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard M. Duran, logistics chief, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. "We provided the multi-cultural martial arts booth and 'Cantina 37,' which is (MWSG-37's) Mexican food booth. We had a very good turnout."

According to Massari, the greatest part of the festival was the appeal it held for servicemembers.

"The best thing to me about Multi-Cultural Heritage Day is Marines have a reason to come here and hopefully learn something about one of the cultures that they take interest in," said Massari. "We don't have to twist their arms to get them to come here. They want to come, unlike some events that are mandatory. People seem to enjoy coming to this."

As is customary with Marines, a competition between participating units was held and monetary prizes were presented as an award for the overall best exhibits.

"If you did your homework and you put time and effort into the educational part, and if you could explain to the sergeants major (judging each booth) exactly what it was they were looking at, a unit display could win first-, second- or third-place prizes," said Sgt. Juan M. SanchezDuarte, awards clerk, Marine Aircraft Group 46, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

According to SanchezDuarte, although this year's heritage day wasn't as large as it was a year ago, it was still an all-inclusive event.

Many international backgrounds were represented at a



Marines, Sailors and their families aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar celebrate Multi-Cultural Heritage Day May 4 by sampling goods, learning facts and enjoying entertainers of the countries presented at the event. The heritage day event allowed Marines and Sailors to recognize and explore different cultural backgrounds. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

variety of distinct information booths where visitors could stop and learn about different cultures.

"It is smaller than last year, but all the countries are still represented," he said. "Last year, we had several repeats of booths representing the same country. This year, it is smaller but it has all of the countries from last year and even some new ones, without any repeats."

Although, the new displays and competitions helped boost attendance for the heritage day, they weren't the sole reason it was a successful celebration.

"The best thing I could see from the festival was not the competition, but the fact that you have so many different backgrounds," said Duran. "You can have all the booths and everything else that you want, but it takes everyone else out here to make it successful."



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Zajick (right), clerk, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, breaks through a board May 4 during the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day celebration aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

An appreciative audience awaits

Marines repair washed-out road network

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

East Miramar is the primary training area for Marines aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, accessed by a network of paved or gravel roads crisscrossing its thousands of acres of grass and shrub-covered hills.

That network of roads was severely damaged by unusually heavy rains that washed across Southern California last year. Marine engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, began road repairs April 18.

“East Miramar roads are constantly being used for training such as seven-ton or Humvee licensing, fun runs and by the firefighters responding to emergencies and fires,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven B. Perez, officer-in-charge, Heavy Equipment Section, MWSS-373. “The roads were in bad shape. They had deep ruts, making them impassable. By fixing and repairing them, everybody benefits.”

The improved roads also benefit the Marine heavy equipment operators who are improving their skills while providing immediate upkeep to Miramar.

The project gives the Marines, who normally don’t get to utilize earth-moving equipment in garrison, the opportunity to do so, according to Perez, a Dallas native.

“This is a very different operation here. Rarely do we get the chance to train with earth-moving gear on Miramar. Normally, we’re limited to doing it on deployments,” said MWSS-373’s Sgt. Jose N. Duran, noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the road repairs. “It’s a great opportunity for the operators to get a feel for the gear, especially the (road) grader, because



Corporal Jason T. Harwood carefully manipulates the controls of a road grader May 4 as part of a project to repair damaged roads aboard East Miramar. Harwood is a heavy equipment operator with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The roads, washed out by heavy rainstorms this winter, are scheduled to be repaired by May 24. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

there are so many controls on it and so many things you have to look out for.”

Experience is the key to operating the equipment and building a good road, so it doesn’t get washed out again, according to Lance Cpl. Josue G. Benoitgalan, a heavy equipment operator with MWSS-373.

“I have repaired roads before in Korea, but the terrain problems here are much worse,” said Benoitgalan, a Miami native. “The roads were in pretty bad shape before, and the rains made

it a lot worse, because the previous roads were graded flat and had no ditches. This made the water create little creeks that eventually washed the road out.”

The entire repair project encompasses one and a half miles of repairs on two separate roads performed by five heavy equipment operators, moving and compacting tons of earth and rock.

Having the road available is crucial to operations aboard the air station, according to Duran. “Our deadline for completion of the project is May 24,” he added.

Club awards scholarships to Miramar families



Major Daniel R. Lingman (left), aviation maintenance officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, accepts a scholarship of \$2,000 on behalf of his wife, Colleen Lingman, May 5 from Brig. Gen. Carl B. Jensen, commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, at the Officers’ Wives Club scholarship presentation at Miramar. Jeremy Scott, son of Master Sgt. Richard L. Scott, avionics administration chief, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, also received a \$2,000 scholarship during the presentation. “We gave away \$18,000 in scholarships to 11 recipients,” said Susie Guthrie, scholarship chair, Officers’ Wives Club, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. “Anyone that is a family member or spouse of an active duty Marine can apply. This year, we came up with 11, which is more than in former years. The OWC raises money and then puts it into scholarships, (which are presented to) the community. The scholarship program has been around for a long time, and we give them out every year.” Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

Battery reaches out, touches insurgents

Story by Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — They are not often seen, but they're definitely heard.

In the late hours of the night or in the early morning, the thundering blasts shake the ground, which can be felt across the base and cause many servicemembers to ask, "Was that incoming or outgoing?"

In most cases it's outgoing fire, and the artillery Marines of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, are the ones making all the noise.

"We provide support for any and everybody that calls for us," said Gunnery Sgt. Michael Jones, Battery A gunnery sergeant, 1/10. "Any unit that calls for fire, if it's cleared and confirmed, we fire on the targets they call on and we take them out."

Battery A, which is 140 Marines strong, is made up of six sections, two of which rotate into the city to provide security at the Civil Military Operations Center and the Fallujah Liaison Team site.

Armed with M198 155mm Medium Howitzers, the Marines of Battery A are busy around the clock providing counter battery fire for Camp Fallujah.

"Most of the missions have been counter fire," said Sgt. Steve Pullins, operations chief, Fire Direction Control Center, Battery A, 1/10. "After the enemy fires on us, we can get rounds back on them in about four or five minutes."

And when it comes to long range, these Marines go the distance.

"We can reach anyone within (18.2 miles)," said Jones, a Gulfport, Miss., native. "We have 6400 mils capability which is a full circle. We can reach out and touch them from any direction."

The FDCC processes anywhere from 30 to 35 missions a day, however, they may end up shooting only once, said 2nd Lt. Ryan King, fire direction officer, FDCC.



Sergeant Ryan Hurtado, section chief, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, holds up a round for the M198 155 Medium Howitzer. Photo by Lance Cpl. Evan M. Eagan

"We wish we could get more action," King said with a smile. "We're more than ready for it."

No one knows this better than the Marines assigned to gun three. As soon as they get word of a possible target, the Marines rush to get their gear on and prepare the Howitzer for the shot, however, more times than not, the mission is ended before they fire.

"We do this all day," said Sgt. Ryan Hurtado, section chief, gun three, a Prescott, Ariz., native. "The guys get pumped up when we get something, and then the mission is usually ended."

The first time Battery A deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, they came with the rest of 1/10 as a battalion. According to Jones, 75 percent of the Marines are new and were not with the battery at the time.

Purple Heart ceremony presents special thanks for Marines' sacrifices



Fellow Marines eagerly step up to shake hands with SSgt. Ian C. LeJeune (seated) and SSgt. William P. Chatten (standing center), technical controllers with Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, after LeJeune and Chatten received their Purple Hearts during a ceremony May 10 in front of the group's headquarters at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Their squadron's commanding officer, Lt. Col. David P. Olszowy, presented the awards to the combat wounded Marines for their actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, thanking them for their sacrifices and wishing them speedy recovery. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

3rd LAAD conducts Stinger missile live fire

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

There isn't much that gets a Marine motivated more than conducting training they haven't had in awhile, especially if the training involves blowing something up.

Marines from 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, participated in a live fire training exercise with Stinger missiles May 3 at San Clemente Island, Calif.

According to Lt. Col. Mark P. Melzar, commanding officer, 3rd LAAD Bn., his Marines have not trained on a live fire range with Stinger missiles for nearly two years.

"It has been something we haven't been able to do for the past few years because of security training and deployments to Iraq," he said. "They were excited about having the chance to conduct a live fire shoot. It gets them back in their (Military Occupational Specialty) — their duty as a Marine."

The Stinger missile is a man-portable, shoulder-fired, guided missile system, which enables the Marine to effectively engage low-altitude jets, propeller-driven and rotary-wing aircraft. The system is a "fire-and-forget" weapon, employing a passive infrared seeker and proportional navigational system.

According to the Federation of American Scientists, during the 1960s the Marine Corps introduced its first lightweight shoulder fired surface-to-air missile — the Redeye. The Redeye missile served throughout the 1970s before giving way to the more technologically advanced Stinger missile in 1982.

According to 1st Lt. Sanford C. Orrick, logistics officer, 3rd LAAD Bn., the island provided the ideal secluded location for giving his unit the chance to train with the missiles.

"The location was great," said Orrick. "It was a great opportunity for the Marines to get out and do what they are trained to do. They don't get a lot of opportunities to do this."

Ironically, the location was also a restriction because of the island's limited access to the mainland.

"There are a couple of conditions (that come with) being on an island," said Orrick. "If you forget something or something goes wrong, you can't just go back for it right then and there. It takes more time."

Although the island is separated from the United States by nearly 70 miles of the Pacific Ocean, it is not without its own resources.



Marines have been firing the light-weight, shoulder-fired, surface-to-air Stinger missile since 1982 when it replaced the Redeye — the first such weapon system used by the Marines in the 1960s. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



A Marine from 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fires a Stinger missile at a model airplane May 3 during a live fire training exercise on San Clemente Island, Calif. Nearly 90 Marines with the battalion participated in the live fire event and shot 44 surface-to-air missiles at various moving targets to practice their skills. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

"This island is used for research, development and a lot of live fire training," said Melzar. "It is not only used for our live fire training, but aviation, submarines and Navy Seals train here also. It works well for training because of its length."

According to Melzar, 3rd LAAD Bn. isn't only focusing on their air defense training at the moment.

"We're like the grunts of 3rd MAW," said Melzar. "Right now, we are dealing with force protection. We did a lot of ground deployment training, machine gun training and ground weapons training, because we know we are going to go back to Iraq and will be doing it again."

Still, at San Clemente Island the battalion's Marines focused on their primary weapon — the Stinger weapons system — by firing a total of 44 live missiles at airborne model aircraft flying in close proximity to the island.

Following the evolution, the battalion commander put the importance of the shoot into perspective.

"There is nothing more valuable than shooting the weapon you are responsible for," concluded Melzar. "The reason this is so valuable to us is because we have to remain balanced."



Mark Gachassin, general manager, Advanced Composite Manufacturing, releases a model airplane into the air May 3 during the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Stinger missile live fire training exercise on San Clemente Island, Calif. The model airplanes, costing more than \$2,000 each, are launched over the water and flown along the coast, presenting themselves as targets for the Marines. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



Sergeant Major Louis M. Espinal, sergeant major, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, takes a closer look at a Stinger weapons system May 3 during the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, MACG-38, live fire training exercise at San Clemente Island, Calif. The weapons system's primary function is to provide a close-in, surface-to-air weapon for the defense of forward combat areas, vital areas and installations against low-altitude air attacks. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

USS MIDWAY



An A-7 Corsair sits atop the flight deck aboard the USS Midway, home to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. The Midway showcases the history of naval aviation and the tradition of the longest serving aircraft carrier. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*



The island of the USS Midway, home to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, rises above the flight deck into the sky May 1. The Midway showcases the history of naval aviation and the tradition of the longest serving aircraft carrier. Visitors can tour three decks of the huge ship, viewing living and working spaces for the carrier's crew, along with a multitude of aircraft that took to the skies from its flight decks. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

San Diego home to naval aviation history

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO – The Aircraft Carrier Museum aboard the USS Midway, now residing in the port of San Diego, provides a unique experience for anyone with an interest in naval aviation history.

The Midway is the longest serving aircraft carrier in naval history. It offers visitors an unmatched opportunity through an interactive experience across its long and distinguished past that moves the visitor from its cramped living and work spaces to the wide-open expanses of its flight deck.

Stepping aboard the Midway, visitors follow in the footsteps of the more than 225,000 American servicemembers who called her home during the course of a 47-year tour of duty. Midway's service at sea began with her keel laying in the heat of World War II and closing in 1991 as the flagship for operations in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm.

Upon entering the ship's cavernous hangar deck, visitors are welcomed by one of the dozens of onboard volunteers and handed an audio receiver and headphones, through which explanations of the 35 exhibits throughout the ship are accessed by pressing their corresponding numbers.

Deep in the ship's belly, visitors walk through the junior officer and enlisted berthing spaces, where up to 4,500 men lived in areas designed for 3,600.

"I don't understand how they could all live together in such a small space and stacked three beds high," said Robert L.

James, a 13-year-old San Diego native.

After touring the hangar and second decks, visitors make their way outdoors onto the 4.02-acre flight deck, home to 12 aircraft and a breath-taking view of downtown San Diego, as well as the Midway's modern, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier brethren across the bay.

The aircraft on the flight deck include helicopters - crucial to replenishment of the ship stores, anti-submarine warfare, and also rescue of those lost at sea, including astronauts from the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s. Eight jet and prop airplanes, crossing the spectrum of naval aviation missions and history, are placed in their launching or landing positions atop the carrier museum.

Most notably, perched topside on the Midway, is the first F-4 Phantom fighter to down enemy aircraft during the Vietnam Conflict.

Modernized twice during its time on the high seas, the Midway grew from displacing 45,000 tons at her commissioning to 74,000 tons at her decommissioning in 1992. Similarly, visitors to the museum gain appreciation and admiration for the thousands of Sailors and naval officers that kept the Midway operating and able to answer every time her nation called her into action.

"I volunteer here because it's a lot of fun," said Lt. Cmdr. John R. Western, medical officer, Marine Aircraft Group 46, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. "I encourage anyone who wants to give just four hours a month to come be a part of this community."



The bow end of the USS Midway, home to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, juts out toward its modern sister aircraft carriers docked at the North Island Naval Air Station. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*



Visitors to the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum aboard the USS Midway pass by a T-2 Buckeye aircraft May 2 inside the hangar deck. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

Out of Iraq and into the kitchen: Marine cooks take over mess hall

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Food service Marines are taking back responsibility for preparing meals at Gonsalves Mess Hall aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar from civilian contractors.

“In my opinion, Marines should always be the cooks because they make a better product,” said Sgt. Mark Devera, food service specialist, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “If we have the means to do so, it should be all Marine.”

The transition from civilian to Marine cooks that took place May 1 is a direct result of the Marines recently having returned from deployment to Iraq, according to Master Sgt.

Christopher P. Storey, food service liaison, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

“The combined effort is all part of a plan that was put in place back in 2002, when the Marine Corps decided to move to civilian run mess halls,” Storey said. “Gonsalves is a mess attendant and Marine facility, in the sense that the cooking responsibilities go back and forth when needed.”

Approximately 90 percent of the culinary Marines belong to Marine Wing Support Squadrons 373 and 374 and have a wide range of responsibilities when it comes to supporting other units.

“We support three Marine Expeditionary Units and three aircraft carriers, in addition to supporting the 3rd

Marine Aircraft Wing, its subordinate units, and the mess hall,” Storey said. “In fact, I get requests all the time for a few Marine cooks to go out and support a training mission here or there, and we are capable of doing all that. So when the operational tempo picks up, like when we had to send most of our Marines to Iraq to cook out there, the civilians come back in.”

With the majority of Marine cooks deploying to Iraq, many didn’t have much, if any, experience working in a garrison mess hall, according to Storey.

“A lot of these Marines are combat veterans, they were out doing security stuff instead of cooking much of the time in Iraq, so they are still adjusting to working with civilian standard operating procedures and re-familiarizing themselves with the garrison mess hall’s facilities,”

Storey said. “We just ask that the customer and the civilian staff bear with us as we get back in the saddle - as we rebuild our food service skills rather than our battle skills.”

The cooks preparing the dinner meal May 4 echoed the opinion that the change will be a challenge.

“I believe that Marines should always be the ones cooking, but it has been difficult at times. Many of us have a lot of field experience and little galley experience,” said Cpl. Ryan S. Fazio, food service specialist, MWSS-373. “It will just take a little time to put the field experience and the galley experience together.”

The mess hall Marines are striving to win the Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award, which recognizes food service excellence, said Storey.



Corporal Ryan S. Fazio slices garlic bread inside the Gonsalves Mess Hall kitchen May 4 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Fazio and his fellow Marine cooks took back responsibility for preparing meals at the mess hall from civilian contractors May 1. Fazio, a Sacramento, Calif., native, is a cook with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. *Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich*

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continued from page 1

“A better understanding of the people we are trying to help and the people we are fighting – their culture, what they think is unimportant, what they think is important – will help us,” said the general.

An awareness of cultural factors and how they impact the Corps’ mission will lead to better-informed decisions by Marines on the battlefield, which gives them a tactical advantage, said Dr. Barak A. Salmoni, an assistant professor of National Security Affairs at U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., during a cultural training seminar hosted by TECOM in November 2004. Better decisions are more efficient, more effective and faster.

“On today’s battlefield, with irregular warfare, victory quite often goes to those individuals who can do something faster, working inside the enemy’s decision cycle,” Hagee said.

The general is determined that his Marines will be the fastest on the battlefield. Sea basing is one of the concepts that will ensure this, he said.

In January 2003, the Navy and Marine Corps team put 70,000 Marines with all their equipment and sustainment into Kuwait in less than 60 days. Sea basing will increase this capability, the general said.

“(Sea basing) is going to make us faster. Sea basing is going to give us the capability to put a Marine Expeditionary Brigade of about 15,000 Marines any place in the world in 10 to 12 days,” the general said.

If the Corps can do that, “we change the entire conflict equation,” he said.

Another concept discussed in his vision and intent is Distributed Operations. This concept capitalizes on the capabilities of Marines, allowing them and the Corps to more quickly respond to a chaotic and ever-changing battlefield.

Distributed Operations is not a brand new idea, the general said. “It is a logical extension of our philosophy of war – maneuver warfare.”

Maneuver warfare seeks to exploit an enemy’s weaknesses, its gaps, seams and center of gravity. “You’re actually outthinking the enemy so you can go against his weaknesses,” the general said.

In Distributed Operations, a networked squad- to battalion-sized unit disperses over the breadth and depth of a much larger area of the battlespace, according to the 2005 Marine Corps Concepts and Programs. The various elements of the squad, platoon, company or battalion remain connected, and situational awareness is maintained through information technologies.

The Distributed Operations concept places greater responsibility on the individual Marine at the small unit level. It further decentralizes decision-making and leverages the skills of junior leaders.

“Ten to 15 years ago, we didn’t have the real technology to enable us to take advantage of what the individual Marine can do,” the general said. “We have that technology today. When (Marines) find that seam or weak point, they are going to be able to come back together (as a unit) and attack (as a unit). Right now, no one else has that particular capability.”

Starting in June, the Corps will begin experiments to learn two things. The first is to determine what training Marines need to become proficient in Distributed Operations. The second is to identify the equipment that will allow them to remain connected to each other and to see what other squads or platoons see.

To better meet the demands of future battles, the Corps is also shifting some of its capabilities, the general said.

During the next four years, the Corps is scheduled to stand up two additional active duty infantry battalions, three light armored reconnaissance companies, three reconnaissance companies, two force reconnaissance platoons and an air and naval gunfire liaison company.

On the Reserve side, the Corps plans to stand up an anti-terrorism battalion, two light armored reconnaissance companies and an intelligence support battalion. All are capabilities currently in high demand, said the general.

To accommodate this change there will be a reduction in the number of artillery, tank and low-altitude air de-

fense units.

Military occupational specialties totaling about 6,000 Marines will also be affected by the changes. Expect an increase in specialties such as intelligence, satellite communications, explosives ordnance disposal and civil affairs. A reduction in fields such as food specialist and fabric repair are also anticipated.

But Marines should know that the Corps is going to take care of them, Hagee said. “If they are doing a good job and they want to stay in the Marine Corps, then we are going to ensure that happens.”

The Corps will also expend more effort to increase its counter-insurgency, counter-terrorism and internal defense of partner-countries.

Though the Corps spends a lot of time talking about and preparing for major combat operations, it spends a lot of time actually performing at the other end of the spectrum – small contingencies, Hagee said. “We should spend more time on cooperative security, training partner-nation armed forces so that they can better address any security issues that they have. So ... if we have to go in, they ask us to come in and help, we already have a working relationship with them. And we can better help them. That’s why we’re standing up this Foreign Military Training Unit.”

The commandant has given the deputy commandants and Marine Forces commanders various mission tasks to implement his vision, but it doesn’t end there. The general charges each and every Marine to read his vision and intent.

“Truly read it and truly understand it,” Hagee said. “Then, you will have an idea of where we are really going to put our resources, ... and you’ll see that a lot of that has to do with education. A lot of that has to do with increasing our cultural understanding of other people, other religions and that’s also education. And you’ll also see that we are going to spend more time on equipping the individual Marine to be successful in the type of battlefield that we think he or she is going to be on in the future.”

To read ALMAR 018/05, visit the 21st Century Marine Corps link at www.marines.mil.

Briefs

Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:
4:30 p.m. Ice Princess (G)
6:30 p.m. Beauty Shop (PG-13)
8:45 p.m. Miss Congeniality 2 (PG-13)

Saturday:
6:30 p.m. Robots (PG)
8:30 p.m. Guess Who (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. Robots (PG)
6:30 p.m. Hostage (R)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Fever Pitch (PG-13)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. Matinee Cancelled, Military Function
6:30 p.m. Guess Who (PG-13)

Operation Appreciation

The city of Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and several local businesses invite active duty servicemembers and their families to the annual Operation Appreciation celebration at the Oceanside Pier and Amphitheater, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The children’s area is scheduled to open at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (760) 722-1534.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

RAs needed Corps-wide

Recruiters assistants are needed throughout the Corps. Any Marine accepted for RA will receive 30 days permissive temporary additional duty and a possible 100 points toward promotion. Marines interested should contact their hometown recruiter for more information.

Native American culture days

Servicemembers are invited to help celebrate American Indian Culture Days at Balboa park, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Events will include storytellers, dancers and traditional Native American food. There will be a free children’s corner and arts and crafts booths. For more information, call (619) 281-5964.

VMGR-352 change of command

Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 will hold a change of command ceremony May 20 at 2 p.m. at Hangar 0 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Lt. Col. Albert T. Concord will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Thomas D. McGinnis who will take over for the KC-130 squadron.

Commissary awareness

May is Commissary Awareness Month and the emphasis is on nutrition and savings. Customers can look forward to a case lot sale as well as other popular activities.

For more information, call (858) 577-4516 or visit www.commissaries.com.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1989 Chevy Z24	CA/4TVY631	1994 Cadillac SLS	CA/3JFL323
2000 Ford Focus	CA/4JMZ536	1995 Nissan Sentra	CA/SZE4762
Mazda MX-6	FL/JPOJGS	1995 Mits. Eclipse	KY/907KKR
1987 Toyota Camry	CA/5CJZ685	1984 Linc. Limo	CA/3MGV444
Chrysler Shadow	MN/FPR718	1989 Ford Taurus	TX/T40PRC
1989 Toyota Camry	CA/4VI588Z	Unk. Trailer	CA/1VW1350